



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.  
by

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on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

## SB 732 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO FILM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the Legislature's long term support of our vital production industry, and the intent of SB 732 SD2 HD1.

As Hollywood has moved more and more shows overseas where the incentives exceed our own and the currency exchange rates make us far less competitive than we were five years ago, it is important for the state to continue to support this important industry. This measure seeks to enhance and sustain the state's existing production tax credits which are essential for workforce development, a diversified economy, and to ensure jobs for our many graduates in the production industry.

The third-party CPA requirement for productions over \$1 million is a common sense approach for addressing any concerns about tax credit abuse. Reinstating the carryover provision for the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income tax credit, as well as applying the general excise tax rate for manufacturers to productions are important measures to stabilize our credit.

Defining "streaming platform" is essential given the changes in technology and how shows and films are delivered directly to the consumer. By recognizing that most streaming shows have six, eight or 10 episodes per season and much higher production budgets than the outdated 20-episode season definition -- means that \$100 million blockbusters like *Chief of War*, might have had a better chance of staying in Hawai'i instead of shooting primarily in New Zealand.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.